

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ITF-05 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 /084 W

----- 005603

P R 021838Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9823

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, GW

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN BONN

1. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR, NGUYEN PHUONG THIEP, CALLED ON US TODAY TO REQUEST THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES (SUBSTANCE OF HIS REQUEST BEING REPORTED BY SEPTTEL). AMBASSADOR THIEP ALSO INFORMED US THAT HE HAD SENT A NOTE TO THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY STATING THAT HE WAS OUT OF CONTACT WITH SAIGON AND THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO TURN OVER TO THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES FOR SAFEKEEPING THE EMBASSY'S PLANT AND EQUIPMENT ALONG WITH ITS REMAINING FUNDS (CA \$50,000). THIEP SAID HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS STAFF, TO EACH

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OF WHOM HE HAD GIVEN 3 MONTHS' TERMINAL PAY, TO DIVIDE

UP THIS \$50,000 AS WELL. HE HOPED, HE SAID, THAT THIS PRESSURE WOULD NOT ASSUME PHYSICAL FORM.

2. THIEP GAVE NO INDICATION AS TO THE PLANS OR INTENTIONS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF BUT DID SAY THAT HE HAD ASKED THE FRG AUTHORITIES TO GRANT ASYLUM TO THOSE OF HIS STAFF MEMBERS WHO DESIRED IT. HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT MANY WOULD WANT TO STAY PERMANENTLY IN THE FRG AND ASKED THE GERMANS THAT THEY BE PREPARED, WHEN REQUESTED, TO ISSUE FOREIGNERS' TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION (FREMDENPASS).

3. AT MAY 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, THE FONOFF SPOKESMAN REPORTED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN BONN STATING THAT IT WAS CLOSING DOWN ITS OPERATIONS. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, INsofar AS POSSIBLE, PERSONAL DECISIONS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WOULD BE RESPECTED. HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT THERE HAD AS YET BEEN ANY OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR ASYLUM. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS IN ORDER TO SECURE THE PROPERTY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE STATE AND HOPED THAT THE SAME POLICY WOULD BE FOLLOWED WITH RESPECT TO THE GERMAN REPRESENTATION IN SAIGON.

4. MAY 2 PRESS REPORTS THAT VIETNAMESE STUDENTS FROM SEVERAL CITIES IN THE FRG OCCUPIED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY FOR A SHORT TIME ON APRIL 30, CLAIMING THAT THEY WANTED TO PREVENT THE AMBASSADOR FROM FLEEING AND TO SECURE FILES AND OTHER ITEMS OF VALUE. AFTER POLICE PERSUADED THEM TO LEAVE, THE STUDENTS REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THEIR ACTION BY CHARGING THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAD FLED RATHER THAN PARTICIPATING IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A COUNTRY DEVASTATED BY 30 YEARS OF WAR, AND THAT AMBASSADOR THIEP WOULD DO THE SAME. MANY OF THESE STUDENTS SEEMED TO BE IDENTICAL TO ONES WHO RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED IN BONN AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION.

HILLENBRAND

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